

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 - 20 without prejudice to their prosecution in a continuation or divisional patent application.

Please add new Claims 24- 31 as follows:

1. – 20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A material comprising a first plurality of fibers and a second plurality of fibers, wherein said first plurality of fibers comprise carbon have a first diameter of approximately 3-15 micrometers, wherein said second plurality of fibers comprise multi-walled nanotubes having a second diameter of greater than zero micrometers and less than about 1 micrometer, and wherein at least some of said second plurality of fibers are bonded to portions of at least some of said first plurality of fibers.

22. (Previously Presented) A material comprising a first plurality of fibers and a second plurality of fibers, wherein said first plurality of fibers comprise carbon fibers having a first diameter of less than about 15 micrometers and more than about 3 micrometers, wherein said second plurality of fibers comprises carbon nanotubes having a second diameter of greater than zero micrometers and less than about 1 micrometer, and wherein at least some of said second plurality of fibers are bonded to portions of at least some of said first plurality of fibers.

23. (Previously Presented) A thermally conductive gasket comprising:

a plurality of fibers having first and second ends, said fibers being predominantly aligned and have a diameter of more than about 3 microns and less than about 15 microns;

a material located predominantly proximate to said first ends, said material improving heat transfer with said first ends, wherein said material comprises a plurality of nanofibrils having a diameter of greater than zero microns and less than about 1 micron.

24. (New) An interface comprising:

a first surface;

a second surface; and

a plurality of elongate fibers in contact with at least one of said first surface and said second surface, wherein at least some of said fibers have a cross sectional diameter of greater

than zero microns and less than approximately 1 micron, and are bonded to a portion of other fibers having a cross sectional diameter of approximately 3-15 microns.

25. (New) The interface of Claim 24, wherein at least some of said fibers comprise multi-walled nanotubes.

26. (New) A method of making an interface comprising attaching whiskers having a diameter of greater than zero microns and less than about 1 micron to tip portions of fibers having a diameter of greater than about 3 microns and less than about 15 microns.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the whiskers and the fibers both comprise carbon.

28. (New) A method of transferring heat away from a heat source comprising:
transferring heat from said heat source to a first plurality of fibers having cross sectional diameters of greater than zero microns and less than about 1 micron;

transferring heat from said first plurality of fibers to a second plurality of fibers having cross sectional diameters of more than about 3 microns and less than about 15 microns; and
transferring heat from said second plurality of fibers to a heat sink.

29. (New) A method of enhancing the performance of a thermally conductive gasket made from a plurality of predominantly aligned carbon fibers having diameters of more than approximately 3 microns and less than about 15 microns, said method comprising placing a plurality of nanofibrils having diameters of approximately 1 micron proximate to at least some tips of said predominantly aligned carbon fibers.

30. (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein at least some of said nanofibrils comprise multi-walled nanotubes.

31. (New) An interface comprising:
a first surface;
a second surface; and
a plurality of elongate fibers in contact with at least one of said first surface and said second surface, wherein at least some of said fibers have a cross sectional diameter of greater than zero microns and less than approximately 1 micron, and are bonded to a tip portion of other fibers having a cross sectional diameter of greater than approximately 3 microns and less than about 15 microns.

Appl. No. : 09/593,587
Filed : June 13, 2000

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 14-15 and 20-23. Applicants wish to re-order the allowed claims in the application. To that end, Claims 1-20 have been canceled and new Claims 24 – 31 have been added. The following new claims correspond to the canceled claims.

New claim 24 corresponds to canceled Claim 1.

New claim 25 corresponds to canceled Claim 4.

New claim 26 corresponds to canceled Claim 7.

New claim 27 corresponds to canceled Claim 8.

New claim 28 corresponds to canceled Claim 9.

New claim 29 corresponds to canceled Claim 14.

New claim 30 corresponds to canceled Claim 15.

New claim 31 corresponds to canceled Claim 20.

The elements of the new claims are the same as their corresponding canceled claims. Applicants have removed the word “thermal” where it was only used in the preamble of Claims 24 - 26 and 31. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24 – 26 and 31 are patentable in view of the prior art based on the structural limitations in the body of the claims without the word. The term “thermal” was merely a statement of purpose or intended use and thus has no significance in any case to the construction of Claims 24 - 26 and 31. (See M.P.E.P. §2111.02). Thus, Claims 20-31 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the amendments and the following remarks. Applicants have further replaced the patent title with a patent title that is more descriptive of the allowed claims. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Final Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call

Appl. No. : 09/593,587
Filed : June 13, 2000


Applicant's attorney, James Herkenhoff at (619) 687-8663 (direct line), in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/20/04

By: 
James F. Herkenhoff
Registration No. 51,241
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

S:\DOCS\VFH\VFH-4994.DOC
110504